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LIFE IN PRESENT-DAY KAUNAS

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Immediately after Kaunas was liberated by the Soviet armies in the summer of 1944, large-scale reconstruction of war damage, as well as of the destruction caused by Nazi sabotage before the Germans left the city, was started. Since then, cultural, economic, and social-welfare activities in Kaunas have increased immeasurably.

At present, Kaunas has six institutions of higher learning which are attended by approximately 5,500 students. Some 25,000 pupils attend 52 elementary schools, eight continuation schools, and 17 Gymnasiums. There are in Kaunas many state and school libraries, three legitimate theaters, six museums, a great number of cinemas, art exhibitions, symphony orchestras, etc.

Despite the damage done by the Hitlerites to the city's industrial enterprises through willful destruction and removal of machinery to Germany, all the old enterprises have been re-opened and a number of new ones established. In addition to numerous small cooperatives and artels, there are in Kaunas 150 big industrial enterprises. Among them are the following: the Kauno Audiniai textile factories and Ramune (formerly Tilke) candy factory; the Sodibla drugs, medicinal herbs, and preserves factory; the Metalas, Apskaustas, and Priekalas metal plants; the Raudonoji Pasvaliste and Ragutis breweries; the Apviija electric motor factory; the Kotton, Laima, Trikotazas, and Silva knitting factories; the Julius Janonis paper mill; the Grozis perfume and soap factory; the Lietmedis saw-mill and lumber yard; the Aleksotas glass factory; shoe factories; the Liepsna match factory; and other big enterprises.

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Many enterprises produce new articles which never before were manufactured in Lithuania as, for instance, electric motors, electric kitchen stoves, prefabricated houses, various preserves, bicycle tires, and others. The increased scale of production can be seen from the fact that in 1948, the Inkaras rubber factory produced 100,000 more pairs of rubber shoes than the Guma and Indaras factories had both produced in 1939. There is a continuous demand for qualified workers, and almost in every factory, announcements placed on the bulletin boards offer good jobs for specialists.

The government's care for the people's health is demonstrated by the increased number of medical establishments in Kaunas. In addition to the university clinic, there are in the city 11 hospitals, 6 polyclinics, 2 maternity clinics, 5 sanatoriums, 35 dispensaries, a blood-transfusion station, several clinics for ambulatory patients, and other health institutions. These institutions employ about 1,000 doctors and medical assistants.

Huge plants are now under construction such as the Arklas agricultural machinery plant the Drobe woolen mill the Pergale metal products mill, and others.

There are also many housing construction projects in progress; for example, the Veterinary Academy is building housing facilities for its employees, and the electric station in Petrasai is engaged in a large-scale building project.

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